British History

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British commonwealth

British commonwealth

- After loss of 13 American colonies a shift in the policies of British government
- Crown was a titular head: colonies were appropriated independence
- Member states have no legal obligations to one another but are connected through their use of the English language and historical ties.
- The Commonwealth Charter defines their shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, as promoted by the quadrennial Commonwealth Games.

British commonwealth

- Lord Durham report about Canadian report in 1823 after seen years of war
- Britshers themselves got settled in the colonies
- Maories in New Zealand revolted against britshers in 1852
- Boer in south Africa
- Competition in imperialism
- England economy was dependent on them but nationalist movement made it impossible for the Britain
- Renascence
- Balfour declaration gave self rights in 1929
- Statues of Westminster in 1932 to give complete independence

Diff b/w Commonwealth and empire?

British commonwealth

- Commonwealth and British Empire is the same thing territorially.
- Commonwealth is a voluntary association formed not by the government bodies but by the mutual agreements among the autonomous states. In other words, Commonwealth basically overtook the British Empire.
- The purpose for this drastic change was to make the linkages stronger among the nations and for the maximum development of harmony among them.
- The major events that happened in the history of British Empire that were responsible for the welcoming up of another power were the, age of discovery.
- World War I and World War II and the war of independence and lastly the movements for the decolonization

British commonwealth

- Commonwealth was formed when the great power of the British Empire got down to its end in the form of decolonization of the lands their nations owned.
- It made the states realize and stands for their own right.
- They required independence and this leads to the formation of the Commonwealth when a lot many nations under British Empire got joined with the Commonwealth.
- These nations are fifty-four in number; this is a complete mutually agreeable association that is made to promote more positivity around the globe.
- There are rich and poor, all sorts of economies in the association that are joined together with the faith that in any times of trouble their partner nations will stand for them.
- Those times could be related to the financial aspects, law and order, institutions, or any such sector.
- The London Declaration is an important event in the history of Commonwealth

British commonwealth

- **The major difference between the two is the difference among the ideologies; the British Empire was very much inclined towards the dictatorship authorities because of this, the member states refused the dependency and stood for their freedom.**
- **On the other hand, the Commonwealth has the focus towards the complete harmony and the establishment of democracy.**
- **Everyone, every single member of the association is the owner and has complete freedom to live independently.**
- **In the Commonwealth the global NGO's have joined them for the support. Basically, the nongovernmental bodies hold the activities and regulations of Commonwealth, while for the British Empire the British in England were the main leading party.**

British commonwealth

- The activities and the agreements that Commonwealth is providing to its member is way off better than the British Empire policies this is the reason to why more and more countries are attracted towards this bonding.
- Another difference is that the members nations have some rights on other partner nations as well, while in British Empire all such rights were restricted to the leading power.
- There was a single constitution for the British Rule, but in Commonwealth there is elimination of such a law and parliamentary system was observed here also.

United nations

- London declaration 1940
- Atlantic charter 1941 Roosevelt and Winston Churchill
- Un declaration 1942
- Moscow and Tehran conferences
- 24 oct 1945 un was made

- Purpose
- Principles
- Organs: GA, SC,
- Un in contemporary times

Middle east crisis

- 1919: Revolts of Arabs against Turks
- After world war I one mandate system divided countries into different zones
- Iraq under British rule– got independence in 1922
- Jordan – 1946 complete independence
- Palestine

Middle East crisis

Middle east crisis causes

- Balfour declaration 1917
- British wanted Muslims and Jews to live together
- Nazi persecution of Jews 1933
- British peel commission in 1937 presented two states solution
- British did not admit refugees
- Jews terrorist campaign
- Britain referred the issue to un
- Un presented the idea to partition it

Suez Canal: Importance, Location, History,

- The Suez Canal is a false sea-level trench across the 75-mile-wide land bridge in Egypt, known as the Isthmus of Suez, flowing from the north to the south.
- The canal connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
- It has the shortest marine passage between the lands of the western and Indian Pacific oceans to Europe.
- The Suez canal divides Asia from the African continent.
- It carries around 12% of the world's business by volume and is the most laboriously used shipping route.
- To know more about the Suez Canal, the Suez canal seas, and its important aspects, read the article until the end.

What is Suez Canal?

- Suez Canal is a vital pathway to ship cargo, oil, and natural gas from east to west. It is heard that around 19,000 ships, or an average of 51.5 ships daily, with a net 1.17 billion tonnes departed through the canal as per Suez Canal Authority (SCA) data in 2020.
- The Suez Canal is a significant source of revenue for Egypt's economy. Also, the previous year, African countries earned approximately USD 5.61 billion using this canal. In the year 2015, there were plans to extend the Suez canal by Egypt that aimed the following by 2023:
- Lower the waiting times for trading and transfer.
- Around a twofold number of ships can utilize the canal daily, which can result in increasing the overall revenue for the Government

Suez Canal - Brief History

- The Suez Canal is the first canal directly connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. It got opened in November 1869 for navigation. The canal was built 150 years ago supervised by British and French interests initially, but in 1956 it was nationalized by Egypt.
- An international emergency in the Middle East poured in July 1956, known as the Suez Crisis. During that scenario, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian president, took over the Suez Canal nationally.
- In the early years, the canal was under the control of the Suez Canal Company, which was handled by French and British interests.
- It is known that the Suez Canal shut 5 times, and the longest duration for which it was closed lasted 8 years long.
- In June 1975, the Suez canal got reopened for traveling and trading.

What resulted in Suez Canal Crisis?

- It took 10 years to build the Suez canal in the mid of 1800. One container ship, known as the “Ever Given” became a barrier in March 2021. The result of this was the breakdown of global trade. The 400-meter “Ever Given” ship got twisted diagonally across the width of the Suez canal.
- The crisis affected around 100 million residents of Egypt. The major cause of the crisis was Nationalisation.
- The Israeli forces smashed with the French and British forces due to delays in transportation on 29th October 1956.
- The Fresh and British army was successful in capturing Port Fuad and Said. Also, Israelis were effectively able to take control over the Sinai Peninsula too.
- A joint attack on the canal area resulted in the complete loss of power for Egyptian forces, but Nasser assembled his army and fought for it.
- The Soviet Union and the Egyptians' associates were left with some time to answer back because of the delay in the invasion.

What resulted in Suez Canal Crisis?

- The Egyptian forces obtained bullets and required arms from the Soviet Union, which was enthusiastic to acquire impact in the Middle East.
- A popular Soviet leader, Nikita Khruschev, called to handle the crisis at a UN Security Council meeting. He intimated throwing nuclear missiles at the Western part of Europe if the French-British-Israeli armies did not step back early.
- The US punished the Soviets as they discussed the nuclear war and threatened France, the United Kingdom, and Israel by boycotting their finances. This resulted in the withdrawal of the Suez canal by British and French forces in 1956.
- During the time of the Suez canal crisis, United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) or the armed force was shipped to the region to look upon the end of aggressiveness and the departure of the three inhabiting forces.

European Economic Community

- The European Economic Community (EEC) was a regional organization that aimed to bring about economic integration among its member states.
- It was created by the Treaty of Rome of 1957.
- Upon the formation of the European Union in 1993, the EEC was incorporated into the EU and renamed the European Community (EC).
- In 2009, the EC formally ceased to exist and its institutions were directly absorbed by the EU. This made the Union the formal successor institution of the Community.
- The Community's initial aim was to bring about economic integration, including a common market and customs union, among its six founding members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany.

European Economic Community

EEC

- It gained a common set of institutions along with the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) as one of the European Communities under the 1965 Merger Treaty (Treaty of Brussels).
- In 1993 a complete single market was achieved, known as the internal market, which allowed for the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people within the EEC.
- In 1994 the internal market was formalised by the EEA agreement.
- This agreement also extended the internal market to include most of the member states of the European Free Trade Association, forming the European Economic Area, which encompasses 15 countries

European Economic Community

- Treaty of Brussels 1948- economic, social and cultural integration
- European coal and steel community in 1951– all restrictions were removed in 1951 between west Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg
- Edward heath made Britain's entry into EEC in 1973 after de Gaulle’s retirement

Major problems for EEC

- De Gaulle's attitude
- Budget contributions
- Hostility of labor party
- Admission of Greek, Spain and Portugal into EEC
- Thatcher was against Europe
- Agricultural policies

Labour party

- The British Labour Party grew out of the trade union movement of the late 19th century and surpassed the Liberal Party as the main opposition to the Conservatives in the early 1920s.
- In the 1930s and 1940s, it stressed national planning, using nationalization of industry as a tool, in line with Clause IV of the original constitution of the Labour Party which called for the "common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service" (this clause was eventually revised in 1994).
- Labour has had several spells in government, first as minority governments under Ramsay MacDonald in 1924 and 1929–1931.
- MacDonald and half his cabinet split with the mainstream of the party and were denounced as traitors.
- Labour was a junior partner in the wartime coalition from 1940 to 1945. After the famous 1945 general election landslide under Clement Attlee (1945–1951) it set up the welfare state with the National Health Service, nationalised a fifth of the economy, joined NATO and opposed the Soviet Union in the Cold War.

Labour party

- Under Harold Wilson in 1964–1970 it promoted economic modernisation. Labour was in government again in 1974–1979 under Wilson and then James Callaghan.
- Escalating economic crises (the "Winter of Discontent") and a split with David Owen and others forming the Social Democratic Party, resulted in opposition status during the Thatcher years from 1979 to 1990
- Labour returned with a 179-seat majority in the 1997 general election under the leadership of Tony Blair.
- The party's large majority in the House of Commons was slightly reduced to 167 in the 2001 general election and more substantially reduced to 66 in the 2005 general election.

Labour party

- Under Gordon Brown, it was defeated in the 2010 general election, becoming the opposition to a Conservative/Liberal-Democrat coalition.
- After further losses in the 2015 general election, party leader Ed Miliband resigned with the party in opposition to a Conservative majority government under David Cameron.
- The Conservatives would lose their majority in 2017 but Labour would remain in opposition against a Second May ministry with a Confidence and supply agreement.
- The 2019 United Kingdom general election would be Labour's fourth defeat since power resulting in the First Johnson ministry majority followed by the end of the Labour Party leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.

The rise of Labour party

https://labour.org.uk/about/labours-legacy/

Introduction of a policy of nationalization. :

Bankof England, civil aviation and public transport

Restoration of trade and prosperity.

1. Britain and Marshall Aid
2. Government control of the economy

a. Rationing of food.(
b. Rationing of all fuels
c. Rationing of building materials
d. Control of interest rates.
e. Control of imports
f. Appeasement of trade union
g. Devaluation of the Pound

Creation of a Welfare State by the Labor Party.

1. The National Health Service, 1946 A.D:
2. The National Insurance Act, 1946 A.D.
3. The National Assistance Act, 1948 A.D.
4. The National Insurance Industrial Injuries Act, 1946 A.D.
5. Adoption of the Butler Education Act, 1944 A.D
6. The New Towns Act, 1946 A.D
7. The Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 A.D.
8. The Trade Dispute Act, 1946 A.D.

Thatcherism and new right 1979-97

Overview of her government

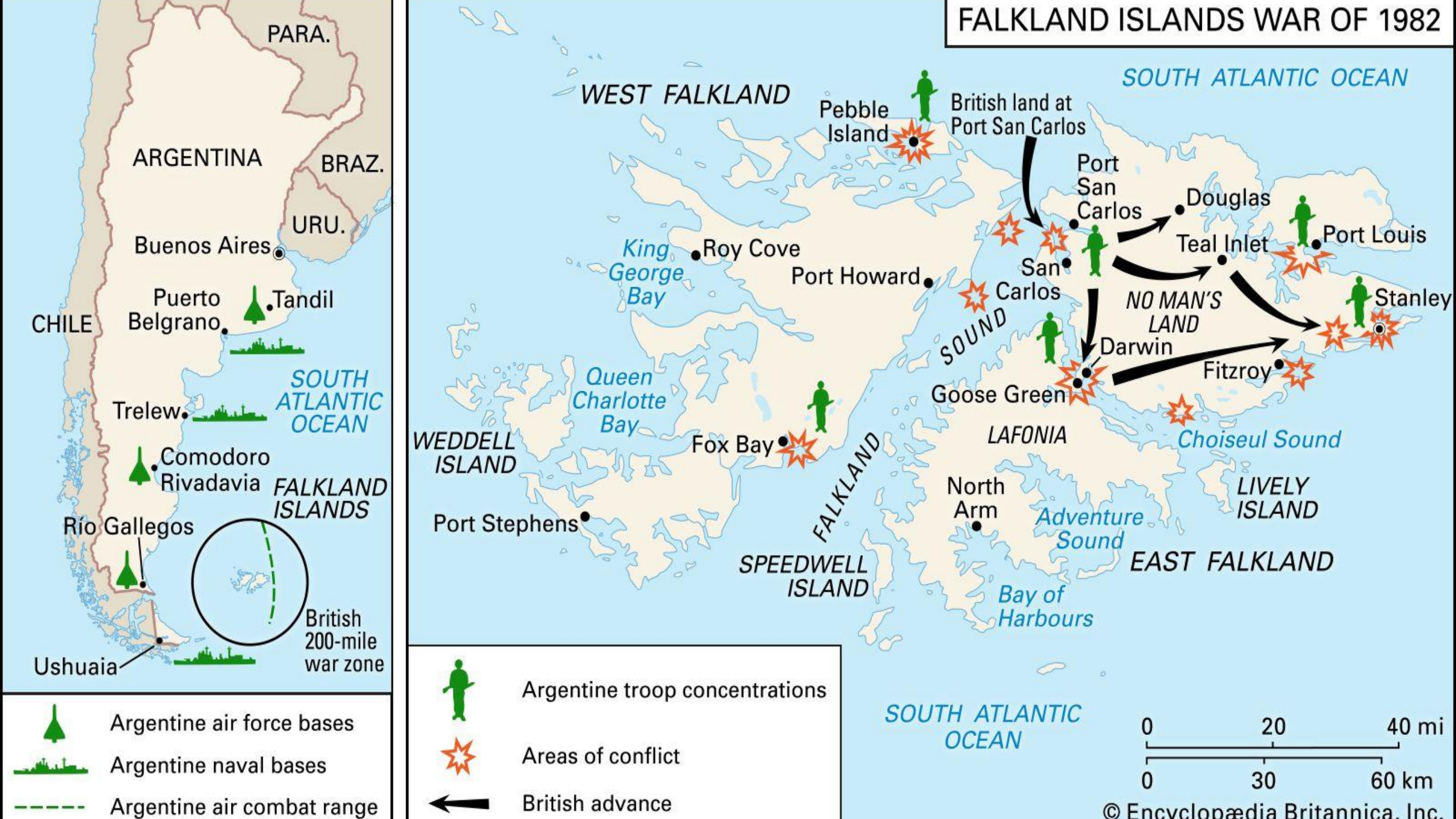
- First (1979-83)-- Second (1983-87) -- Third (1987-90)
- Influenced by the ideas of Enoch Powell and sir Keinath joseph
- Economic liberalism
- State interference minimum and market forces must decide the prices
- An attack on socialism and collectivism
- The almost out of control power of the trade unions; the growth of a property-owning society; the improved efficiency of the surviving British industries;
- The relocation of economic activity away from manufacturing industry and into the service industries; and the de-regulation of the City

What is Thatcherism

- The role of state in society must be reduced– self-help, no direct taxes
- Monetarism– high-interest rates so people could borrow less money
- Trade unions—power must be curbed
- Self-help and individualism
- A strong element of British Nationalism
- Political opportunist
- Strong opposition to socialism
- Mission was to renew the spirits of the nation
- Anti-establishment and radical
- Falkland war issue

Falkland war issue

- **Argentinian Claim:** The Argentinian claim to the British owned Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic had been for the previous 20 years. The Argentinians may well have got the impression that the British would not be averse to an eventual transfer of power; but the stumbling block was that the 1800 Falklanders were adamant that they wished to remain under British sovereignty.
- **Argentinians' attack:** Argentinian forces invaded the islands (2 April) as well as their dependency, South Georgia. The United Nations Security Council condemned their action and urged the Argentinians to withdraw, to no avail. Thatcher acted decisively and astonished the world by the speed of her response. A British task force, was swiftly assembled and sent off to recapture the Falklands. It consisted some 70 ships including the aircraft carriers Invincible and Hermes and about 6000 troops


FALKLAND ISLANDS WAR OF 1982
PARA.
ARGENTINA
BRAZ.
URU.
Buenos Aires
Puerto Belgrano
Tandil
CHILE
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Trelew
Comodoro Rivadavia
FALKLAND ISLANDS
Río Gallegos
Ushuaia
British 200-mile war zone
Argentine air force bases
Argentine naval bases
Argentine air combat range
WEST FALKLAND
Pebble Island
British land at Port San Carlos
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Port San Carlos
Douglas
Teal Inlet
Port Louis
King George Bay
Roy Cove
Port Howard
San Carlos
NO MAN'S LAND
Stanley
SOUND
Darwin
Fitzroy
Queen Charlotte Bay
Goose Green
LAFONIA
Choiseul Sound
WEDDELL ISLAND
Fox Bay
FALKLAND
North Arm
LIVELY ISLAND
Port Stephens
Adventure Sound
EAST FALKLAND
SPEEDWELL ISLAND
Bay of Harbours
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Argentine troop concentrations
Areas of conflict
British advance
0 20 40 mi
0 30 60 km
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Falkland war issue

- During the three weeks that it took the task force to sail the 8000 miles via Ascension Island to the South Atlantic, frantic attempts were made, notably by Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, to reach a negotiated solution.
- However, the British, refuting South American charges of colonialism, pointed out that the islanders wished to remain associated with Britain; they refused to negotiate unless Argentinian troops were withdrawn.
- The Argentinians, safe in possession of the islands, naturally refused to budge, and Haig's efforts came to nothing.
- Meanwhile Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, had resigned, accepting responsibility for 'the humiliating affront to this country’.
- He was replaced by Francis Pym.

What is Thatcherism

Arrival of the Task Force: The task force arrived in Falklands waters during the final week of April and soon enjoyed complete success.

- On 14 June the Argentinian troops surrendered and the recapture of the Falklands was complete.
- The British had lost 254 men killed, the Argentinians 750. The expedition cost Britain around 700 million.

Outburst of Patriotism in England: The effects of the crisis on the home front were little short of sensational.

- There was a outburst of patriotism such as had not been seen since the Second World War, and approval of the government's decisive action caused their sagging popularity to revive with a vengeance.
- This was reflected in the local election results in May 1982 and in two by elections which the SDP could have expected to win, but couldn’t.

First government 1979-83

- **Monetarism:** Monetarism is a school of thought in monetary economics that emphasizes the role of governments in controlling the amount of money in circulation
- Howe predicted the inflation would be down by 4.5
- Argentina claimed Falkland island as their own
- 1800 Falklanders wanted to be with British
- British ship endurance was removed
- Argentina invaded on 2 April
- Thatcher sent force against the advice of foreign office
- South Georgia was recaptured, and General Belgrano was sunken
- Post war effects
- Thatcher won the election

Second government 1983-87

- Privatising of state enterprises
- A tough stance against trade unions aurther acargil
- Strict law and order
- Tough stance against international terrorism
- The agreement with China on Hong Kong
- Historians believe that privatization and the increase in home ownership were an important ingredient in winning working-class support, since this was part of the move towards a ‘property-owning democracy’. Above all, the sale of council houses may have been a vital factor.
- Liberal/SDP Alliance camp, however.
- Bitterly disappointed by their poor election performance, at least in terms of seats, the two parties began talks to try to bring about a merger.
- The negotiations went well, and in January 1988 the new party – at first calling itself the Social and Liberal Democrats, and later the Liberal Democrats: ‘Lib Dems’ – was born.

Third government 87-90

- After twelve grueling years as Liberal leader, David Steel decide to stand down, and Paddy Ashdown was elected leader of the new party.
- It remained to be seen whether the Lib Dems would be able to make any real contribution towards ending the period of Tory domination
- Privatization continued, with the government selling off its remaining holdings in BP and going on to sell off the electricity and water utilities. By 1992,
- only coal and the railways out of the main industries and utilities remained in state ownership.

The Education Reform Act (1988)

- **Problems: blamed this on poor-quality teacher training, informal teaching methods, insufficient attention to the 'three Rs', lack of testing and streaming, and a breakdown in discipline.**
- **The Act introduced a national curriculum which all pupils had to follow, and pupils were to be tested at the ages of 7, 11, 14 and 16.**
- **Parents were given the right to choose which school they wanted their children to go to in a particular area, and control of school budgets was taken out of the hands of local authorities and given to individual head teachers.**
- **If many parents wished, a school could opt out of local authority control to become 'grant-maintained'; it would then be financed directly by the government, side-stepping the local authority, and would be run by its governors.**

Reforms in health system

- The government introduced market forces into the Health Service to make it more efficient.
- There were further reductions in income tax.
- In his budget of March 1988, seen by many as the high point of Mrs Thatcher's third government, Nigel Lawson reduced the basic rate of income tax from 27 per cent to 25 per cent, and the top rate from 60 per cent to 40 per cent.
- Income tax reduction had been one of the Conservatives' election promises, and Lawson could claim at this point that all his goals had been achieved
- Inflation, interest rates and unemployment had all been brought down, while economic growth was increasing.

The Downfall of Mrs. Thatcher

- Dissatisfaction with Mrs. Thatcher's style of government had been increasing for some time in the Cabinet.
- Full Cabinet discussion of policies became increasingly rare, and decisions were taken by Mrs. Thatcher after consultation with small groups of Cabinet members or with her personal advisers.
- She gradually lost touch with her original power base in the parliamentary party.
- This was made worse by the retirement, after the 1987 election, of William Whitelaw, an expert parliamentarian on whom she relied heavily for advice.
- Disagreements over the government's policy towards Europe became more serious.
- Mrs. Thatcher had never been enthusiastic about Britain's membership of the EEC and was convinced that the sovereignty of the British government was being threatened.

Assessment of Mrs. Thatcher's government

- Thatcher and Reagan made the 1980s 'one of the most innovative and exciting decades in the history of the Free World since 1900'.
- True, the Left dismissed the 1980s as a time of arrogant materialism and self-indulgence, but in fact the financial excesses.
- During Mrs. Thatcher's first few years in power, the 'enterprise culture' showed many successes, with a record number of small businesses being set up.
- The most striking change in direction, which was maintained right through the Thatcher years, was privatization.
- The curbing of trade union powers was an important and necessary step and resulted in fewer strikes than at any time since the 1930s.
- Another notable feature was the sale of council houses, which brought house ownership in Britain up from 44 per cent to about 66 per cent of the population, the highest in Western Europe.
- One of Mrs. Thatcher's greatest achievements was to renegotiate Britain's contribution to the EEC budget

Assessment of Mrs. Thatcher's governments

- Her policy towards Russia was a success: she formed a good relationship with Gorbachev on his first visit to Britain (December 1984): 'I like Mr Gorbachev,' she told TV viewers; 'we can do business together.'
- During her later visit to Russia (March 1987) they had long talks, and she could claim that she had helped to pave the way for the end of the Cold War.
- Right at the beginning of her period in power, Mrs Thatcher presided over the granting of independence to Zimbabwe, thereby solving a long-running problem.
- Thatcherism also had an effect on the Labour Party: by moving the Conservative Party firmly to the right, Mrs Thatcher forced Labour, under Neil Kinnock, John Smith and Tony Blair, to adapt to changing circumstances, modernize its image and drop most of its socialist ideals, such as nationalization and the restoration of full trade union powers.
- Thus, Mrs Thatcher could claim, with some justification, to have set a new political agenda, changed the course of British politics and played a vital role in the disappearance of socialism from Britain

Assessment of Mrs. Thatcher's governments

- During the first bout of monetarism (1980–1) Britain lost between 20 percent and 25 per cent of her manufacturing industry – sometimes referred to a 'de-industrialization' process.
- Unemployment had fallen from a peak of 3.4 million in 1986 to 1.6 million in June 1990; but the recession sent it up again to almost 2 million when Mrs Thatcher resigned, and it continued to rise, reaching 2.6 million by the end of 1991.
- The gap between rich and poor widened. Successive income tax reductions, particularly in 1988, benefited the rich more than the poor: over the eleven and a half years of Mrs Thatcher's governments, the richest 20 per cent gained by almost a third of their income, whereas the poorest 20 per cent gained only around 1 per cent.
- Higher VAT turned people away from Thatcher
- Foreign policies failed

Assessment of Mrs. Thatcher's governments

- Her fundamental aim was to destroy the Labour party and 'Socialism', not to transform the British economy.
- Socialism was to be destroyed by a major restructuring of the electorate: in effect, the destruction of the old industrial working class.
- Its destruction was not at first consciously willed.
- The disappearance of much of British industry in the early 1980s was not intended, but it was an acceptable result of her policies of deflation and deregulation; and was then turned to advantage.

John Major’s governments, 1990–97

THE RISE OF Jhon Major

- ‘Major sought to prolong the successes of Thatcherism without the embarrassment of Thatcher herself.’
- He was prepared to carry privatization even further than Mrs Thatcher had done – the railways and the coal industry were next on the list (Mrs Thatcher had always regarded these as out of bounds);
- Major also introduced the National Lottery, much to Mrs Thatcher’s disgustigned the Maastricht Treaty (December 1991), which committed Britain to greater integration in Europee
- Thatcherites, who felt that he was too pro-Europe.
- They demanded a referendum on whether Britain should accept the treaty, but the Prime Minister refused.
- This disagreement over Europe was to split the Conservatives right through Major’s period in office, and was to play an important part in the massive Conservative defeat in 1997

Eastern question

- Jhon major won the election due to his impeccable character, divison in labour party and no registering of votes due to poll tax conditions
- Problems like continued recession, uproar on privatization Extension on VAT on feul also hampered the codntions n an attempt to rally the party
- Major launched a new campaign – ‘back to basics’, which seemed to be an updated version of Mrs Thatcher’s Victorian values: a return to a stricter morality and a strengthening of family life the dispute in the party over Europe rumbled on as a permanent them
- the Eurosceptics made life difficult for Mr Major every time there was a Commons vote on anything to do with Europe
- The government mishandled the crisis over the safety of British beef. After outbreaks of a cattle disease known as bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE) (commonly known as ‘mad cow disease’).

Why Jhon Major failed

- Pound crisis
- Unemployment skyrocketed
- Privatisation was gone too far
- Party split over Europe
- Tony Blair reformed labour party and dropped clause which dealt with nationalisation

Tony Blair (1997-2007)

Tony Blair

- After their defeat in the 1979 election, the Labor party went through a difficult period. James Callaghan, who had been on the right of the party, resigned the leadership in 1980.
- The party faced the dilemma of what to do next: should it move to the left and become more socialist, or was the answer to go in the opposite direction, with tough policies to curb the unions?
- During the first few years in opposition the left wing was in the ascendant.
- The manifesto for the 1983 election was the most radical ever produced by the Labour party and the result was disastrous: Labour won only 209 seats to the Conservatives' 397.
- Michael Foot, the veteran left-winger who had taken over from Callaghan, resigned and Neil Kinnock was elected leader

Tony Blair

- Kinnock realized that the party needed modernizing; but progress was slow, and while he was able to make a start, it was not enough for Labour to win the next election, in 1987.
- They could muster only 229 seats against the Conservatives' 380.
- Over the next five years, Kinnock succeeded in shifting control of the party back to the centre and away from the local organizations, many of which had been taken over by far-left Trotskyite groups.
- Labour's standing in the opinion polls steadily improved, and as the 1992 election approached, all seemed set fair for a Labour victory.
- Against all predictions, it was the Conservatives under John Major who won; they took 336 seats, giving them a narrow overall majority of 21.
- Labour did much better than in 1987, but still only managed 271 seats.
- Bitterly disappointed, Kinnock resigned and John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, was chosen as leader. He continued the modernization process but died suddenly in 1994.

New deal

- Gordon Brown and Tony Blair were the obvious candidates for the leadership, but a deal was reached between them in which Brown did not stand for election, so enabling Blair to win.
- Together with a small group of supporters they took the reform process further than many of the traditional Labor supporters had expected.
- In 1995, the notorious Clause 4 (about nationalization) was dropped from the party constitution.
- Now firmly in the center the Labor party in opposition and ground, ‘New Labor’ won a landslide victory in the 1997 election with a record total of 418 seats

Second Term in office (2001–5)

- Blair's second term in office (2001–5) was overshadowed by the 'war on terror' following the 9/11 al-Qaeda attacks on the USA.
- Blair decided that the UK should join the USA, first in driving the Taliban government out of Afghanistan, and then in overthrowing Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who were said to be harbouring and encouraging terrorists.
- Both regime changes had been achieved by May 2003, but unfortunately this did not bring an end to violence.
- Neither country had been pacified by 2007, when Blair resigned; the decision to join in the war in Iraq was seen by most observers to be Blair's most serious mistake, and probably the thing most people will remember about his governments

Ending years

- Nevertheless, New Labour was still popular enough, and the Conservatives unattractive enough, for Blair to win a third consecutive general election in 2005, though with a much-reduced majority.
- Soon after the election, in July 2005, London suffered terrorist attacks when suicide bombers killed fifty-two people on the London Underground and a bus; later, other plots were thwarted by the police and security services.
- On a happier note, people were now enjoying the benefits of the New Labour reforms: improvements in public services and increasing prosperity for the vast majority.

Continue..

- But there were problems too: the government had got itself a reputation for ‘spin’ and sleaze, and there were financial scandals.
- There were controversies about immigration, ID cards and dwindling pension funds.
- It also became clear that Blair had made a mistake by announcing (before the 2005 election) that he would not fight a fourth election.
- As his third term went on, speculation about when he would resign increased, the government’s authority was weakened, and Gordon Brown became more and more impatient to take over as Prime Minister.
- Eventually, Blair was maneuvered into resigning in June 2007 after serving ten consecutive years in Downing Street

Q/A?